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CLASSIFICATION RESTRICTED  
 SECURITY INFORMATION  
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 INFORMATION FROM  
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT NO. 

CD NO. --

COUNTRY Pakistan; India; Kashmir; Nepal  
 SUBJECT Military - Border activities, armed forces

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

DATE DIST. 14 Mar 1953

WHERE PUBLISHED Pakistan

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE PUBLISHED 4 Aug - 23 Oct 1952

LANGUAGE Urdu

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF MILITARY, BORDER ACTIVITIES OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Comment: The following information, taken from Pakistani Urdu daily newspapers published between 4 August and 23 October 1952, presents details on Indo-Pakistani border relations in East and West Bengal and Kashmir during this period.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.<sup>7</sup>

Reports of vigorous Indian preparations for an attack on East Pakistan were explained by a Calcutta dispatch in the 4 August issue of Shahbaz, an Urdu daily newspaper of Peshawar. The dispatch stated that the rumor was rife in Calcutta that the West Bengal government police force was to be greatly increased to stage an attack on East Pakistan.

The dispatch further stated that the rumor developed when B. C. Roy, Chief Minister of West Bengal, proposed a bill in the State Assembly for an additional appropriation of 34,866,000 rupees for police expenses. The bill was opposed in the assembly, and it was protested throughout Calcutta, according to the paper.

The dispatch went on to say that Dr Roy answered the objections of the opposition party and stated the government's viewpoint that it would be difficult to remain safe from external attacks unless the border of West Bengal was strengthened. For this reason, he said, the Indian government increased the West Bengal government police force, the paper reported.

According to the dispatch, Dr Roy said that his reference to external attacks was pointed toward the threat of East Bengal against West Bengal. The dispatch commented that it was apparently on this latter statement that the rumors had spread that West Bengal was engaged in war preparations against East Bengal. The dispatch added that some people thought that the government was enlarging the police force to strengthen the Congress Party and crush other political parties.

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The dispatch reported also that a Bengal Provincial Communist Party member said in the State Assembly that the purpose of an augmented police force was to permit mass murders and that the police would adopt that very custom which prevailed during the reign of the British.(1)

On 22 September, Tameer, an Urdu daily newspaper of Rawalpindi, carried an official communique from the West Bengal government to Karachi, which declared that the West Bengal government would establish only 16 frontier stations on the border of India and Pakistan and that these stations would be used only in connection with the passport system between India and Pakistan.

The communique stated that several newspapers which reported that the West Bengal government would build 80 outposts were in error, although the number of outposts would be increased later if it was found necessary under the new passport system, which will become effective on 15 October.(2)

In reference to border outposts, Maghrabi Pakistan, an Urdu daily newspaper of Lahore, reported on 18 August that I. Sharma, deputy commissioner of Goalpara District, Assam, sent an appeal to the district magistrate of Rangpur District, East Pakistan, requesting the removal of a Pakistan police outpost on the frontier on grounds that it was located on Indian territory.(3)

On 28 August, the same newspaper reported that Fazlur Rahman, Pakistani Minister of Commerce, on 25 August, made an inspection tour of the Akhaura outpost, near Tripura, India, on the border of East Pakistan.(4)

The 23 October issue of Nawa-i-waqt, an Urdu daily newspaper of Lahore, reported that on 21 October, in Chittagong, Mir Khalilur Rahman, Pakistani Minister of Defense, commenting on the armed forces recruiting drives in East Pakistan and other provinces, stated that the youths of East Pakistan proved to be excellent soldiers and that it was wrong to say that there was no military capability in East Pakistan or in its youth.(5)

According to the Nawa-i-waqt report, Rahman said that an ever increasing number of men had to be recruited into the armed services and that the nation's defense was the duty of each person, including the people of East Pakistan. Rahman stressed that the relations of East and West Pakistan must be strengthened, the paper said.(5)

Meanwhile, rumors of an attack by Pakistan on Kashmir drew comments in India and Pakistan-occupied Azad Kashmir.

On 5 September, Shahbaz stated that the Indian non-Communist and Communist press published a report that Pakistan was secretly preparing another tribal attack on Kashmir.(6)

The Indian report was published on the basis of another report which appeared in the 29 August edition of the New York Times as a contribution from the New York Times correspondent stationed in Rawalpindi.(6)

According to Shahbaz, the correspondent's report stated that top officials of Pakistan's Ministry of Kashmir Affairs had announced that the responsibility for the failure would not rest on Pakistan if no peaceful agreement was reached because of idleness on the Kashmir problem. It went on to say that the correspondent's report also stated that the Indian government had given full consideration to the situation, and if there were an attack on Kashmir, the Indian government would consider it an attack on India and would take necessary actions.(6)

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According to a Muzaffarabad dispatch in the 10 September issue of Tameer, Azad Kashmir political circles gave attentive consideration to the Indian press version of the New York Times account, which India had prominently exploited and interpreted as another attack.(7)

Tameer stated that the Azad Kashmir political circles declared that India was attempting to justify the maintenance of the Indian Army in Kashmir by accusing Pakistan of war preparations against Kashmir.(7)

These circles further declared, according to Tameer, that India was sitting on top of a volcanic mountain in Kashmir which could erupt at any moment, because no country could rule for ever with bayonets.(7)

SOURCES

1. Peshawar, Shahbaz, 4 Aug 52
2. Rawalpindi, Tameer, 22 Sep 52
3. Lahore, Maghrabi Pakistan, 18 Aug 52
4. Ibid., 28 Aug 52
5. Lahore, Nawa-i-waqt, 23 Oct 52
6. Peshawar, Shahbaz, 5 Sep 52
7. Rawalpindi, Tameer, 10 Sep 52

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